

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 are now in the application. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to recite "isolated" as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, claim 2 has been amended by deleting the phrase "within the molecule thereof" for purposes of clarification and not to limit the scope of the claims. Claim 2 has also been amended by relocating the term "having water channel activity" in the claim for purposes of clarification and not to limit the scope of the claims. Claim 2 has also been amended to recite "encodes" in place of "codes" for purposes of clarification and not to limit the scope of the claims.

Claim 3 has also been amended to recite "nucleotide molecule" in place of "DNA" sequence for purposes of clarification and not to limit the scope of the claims. Claim 3 has also been amended to recite "ID" in place of "DI" for purposes of clarification and not to limit the scope of the claims.

The specification has been amended to update the status USSN 09/381,810. Also, the spellings of "aquapolin" on page 2, line 35 and "adipose" on page 6, line 3 of the specification have been corrected.

The objection to claim 3 has been overcome by reciting "ID" in place of "DI".

The rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 USC 101 has been overcome by the amendment to the claims reciting "isolated" as suggested by the Examiner.

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph has been overcome by deleting the phrase "within the molecule thereof" as suggested by the examiner.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Respectfully submitted,



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